

home state of Montana, Colonel Roberts will be honored at the University of Montana during an 80th anniversary ceremony for the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC).

Colonel Roberts received many honors during his career. These awards include the Bronze Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, two Air Medals and Commendation Awards from both the Army and the Air Force. In the 1960's, Colonel Roberts, who was assigned to the Strategic Air Command, briefed our Nation's leaders about the threats to our country and potential targets for the United States during the cold war.

Sam Roberts was a great leader of those under his command. His motto: "Don't ask any of your men to do anything that you wouldn't do yourself or that you wouldn't show them how to do yourself," is a cornerstone that we should look for in the future leaders of our military.

I salute Colonel Sam Roberts, and his lovely wife, Kathleen, for the sacrifices they made during Sam's career and thank them for a job well done. I consider it an honor and privilege to call Sam and Kathleen Roberts my friends.●

STATEMENT ON THE DEATH OF GENE AUTRY

● Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I was saddened to learn of the death of Gene Autry, a longtime Californian, earlier this afternoon. Mr. Autry will always be remembered as a singer and performer of enormous talent and appeal. First making his way onto the radio airwaves in 1928 as a singer, his career quickly broadened to include acting. He appeared in such films as "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" in 1935 and television series as "The Gene Autry Show" between 1951-1954. Perhaps his most famous song, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer" will forever remind us of his zest for life and gentle charm each holiday season.

Mr. Autry succeeded in everything he undertook—radio, television, records, songwriting, movies, real estate, and business. In 1961, he bought the expansion Los Angeles Angels, renamed in 1965 as the California Angels. He maintained ownership of the team until the Walt Disney Company took operating control in 1966.

Over the course of his life, Mr. Autry collected Western memorabilia and art. In 1988, using much of his own funding, he opened the Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum in Los Angeles' Griffith Park. I cherish every opportunity I have to visit the Heritage Museum and view treasures from the Old West.

My most sincere condolences go out to Mrs. Autry and his entire family. Gene Autry will be missed by all, especially Californians who benefited tremendously from his works. I know that right now, the Singing Cowboy is "Back in the Saddle Again," smiling down on us.●

HONORING CHALMERS WYLIE

● Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of former Representative Chalmers Wylie, who passed away on August 14, 1998, at the age of 77.

Chalmers Wylie was elected to the House of Representatives in 1966, and went on to serve thirteen distinguished terms. His career included service as Ranking Member of the House Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Committee.

Mr. Wylie dedicated his life to public service—and especially to the service of the people of Ohio's 15th district. While serving in the Army during World War II, he received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained while aiding fallen soldiers in Germany. In addition, he was awarded the Silver and Bronze Star, the Presidential Unit Citation with two oak-leaf clusters, the French Croix de Guerre and the Belgian Fourragere.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Wylie's war-time service provided him with a special understanding of the needs of veterans. This experience was particularly apparent in the House Veterans' Committee, where he fought for veterans and was instrumental in improving veteran access to medical care in Columbus, Ohio through the establishment of the Veterans' Affairs Outpatient Clinic.

Along with my distinguished colleague Senator GLENN, I am introducing legislation today to name the Department of Veterans' Affairs Outpatient Clinic, located at 543 Taylor Avenue in Columbus, Ohio, the "Chalmers P. Wylie Veterans Outpatient Clinic." This is a companion bill to H.R. 4602, which was introduced by our distinguished House colleague Deborah Pryce, with the support of the entire Ohio delegation. I hope that my colleagues in the Senate will support the swift passage of this fitting tribute to our friend Chalmers Wylie, for his years of dedication to veterans, to Ohio, and to America.●

LET'S ENCOURAGE BROWNFIELDS DEVELOPMENT AND GET THE LITTLE GUY OUT OF SUPER- FUND LITIGATION AT CO-DIS- POSAL SITES

● Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, yesterday the Conferees on VA-HUD Appropriations decided to amend our nation's Superfund law.

At present, Superfund contains a limit on the liability of sureties who issue performance bonds to Superfund cleanup contractors. I was the author of that provision, which I introduced in 1990 as a free-standing Superfund bill (S. 3187). My bill was broadly supported by labor, environmentalists, and the American Insurance Association.

But, Mr. President, at the time the surety liability legislation was passed, certain Senators who doubted the limitation was necessary to increase the availability, and hence, competitive-

ness, of surety bonds, added a sunset provision.

During the VA-HUD Conference yesterday, the Conferees agreed to eliminate that sunset provision. The deletion has had broad-based, bipartisan support, and has appeared in each comprehensive Superfund reform bill introduced in this Congress.

I supported that amendment, Mr. President, but I want to underscore my distress at the manner in which the Conferees adopted the amendment.

Several months ago, I asked Senator CHAFEE to include two Superfund amendments on the agenda for an Environment and Public Works Committee business meeting before the end of the year—one pertaining to brownfields and the other to municipal solid waste ("MSW"). Senator CHAFEE rejected this request, based on his opposition to "piecemeal" Superfund reform, that is, anything less than a comprehensive overhaul of the entire Superfund statute—something that has eluded this body now for three consecutive Congresses, or six years.

I was therefore astonished that the surety amendment made its way into yesterday's VA-HUD Conference Report. I was especially surprised that Senator CHAFEE, as Chair of the authorizing Committee, signed off on this piece of Superfund reform on an appropriations bill, despite his repeated opposition to "piecemeal" reform, and the fact that this provision had not passed the House or the Senate as a stand-alone bill, and was not in either the House or the Senate VA-HUD bills.

Some argued that the surety amendment was merely technical in nature—that it simply perpetuated the opportunity for sureties to enjoy limited liability under Superfund.

Using that criterion, a brownfields liability exemption would also constitute nothing more than a technical fix—it would clarify that Congress did not intend Superfund liability to deter persons from purchasing and cleaning up brownfields properties. Nor would an MSW amendment—which would confirm that Congress did not intend persons who disposed of only household waste to be liable for cleanup of toxic waste.

The surety amendment has also been touted as non-controversial—having consistently enjoyed broad-based bipartisan support.

Mr. President, as I have stated on many occasions, and my esteemed colleagues must agree, brownfields and MSW liability exemptions can boast the same historic consensus. They have appeared in each of the comprehensive Superfund reform bills introduced by Republicans or Democrats since the 103rd Congress. And they have gained the support of all stakeholders, the Administration, and the national environmental community.